

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

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R 091406Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 990

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, EEWT, BTIO, CZ

SUBJECT: ENERGY PROSPECTS (C-ER-6-50337)

REFS: A. STATE 220650(NOTAL), B. TEHRAN 7776 (NOTAL),
C. PRAGUE 662(NOTAL), D. PRAGUE 142(NOTAL),
E. 1975 PRAGUE 043, F. 1975 PRAGUE A-03

1. EMBASSY'S INFORMATION ON AGREEMENTS GOC HAS CONCLUDED
WITH COUNTRIES OTHER THAN USSR REGARDING IMPORTS OF CRUDE
OIL AND NATURAL GAS IS SPARSE. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, CSSR
RELIES ON SOVIET UNION FOR OVER 90 PERCENT OF ITS CRUDE
OIL AND GAS REQUIREMENTS.

2. OIL: COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY KEMPNY INDICATED SEPT 4
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(SEPTEL) THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS WILL HAVE TO IMPORT MORE

CRUDE OIL FROM OTHER SOURCES, AND EMBASSY HAS HEARD FOR SOMETIME THAT GOC IS SEEKING TO INCREASE IMPORTS FROM OPEC SUPPLIERS. (ROMANIA, ONLY CONCEIVABLE EAST EUROPEAN CRUDE SOURCE, PROVIDES ONLY RESIDUAL FUEL OIL, AS DETAILED REFS C AND D.) AS REPORTED LAST YEAR (REFS E AND F), GOC EVIDENTLY DID NEGOTIATE ARRANGEMENTS WITH IRAQ, ALGERIA AND LIBYA FOR IMPORTS, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THESE DEALS HAVE BECOME SIGNIFICANT IN FACT. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ESFANDIARY TOLD AMBASSADOR SEPT 8 THAT IRANIAN WILLINGNESS TO EXPORT CRUDE TO CSSR HAS BEEN FOILED BY TRANSPORT PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THE EXTENDED DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION OF RIJEKA PIPELINE TO ADRIATIC.

3. GAS: ASIDE FROM SMALL DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, USSR HAS EVIDENTLY BEEN SOLE SOURCE OF NATURAL GAS FOR CZECHOSLOVAKS. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR CONFIRMS RECENT REPORT FROM EMBASSY TEHRAN (REF B) THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING ON DEAL FOR CSSR TO IMPORT 3.6 BILLION CUBIC METERS ANNUALLY OF SOVIET GAS WHICH WILL BE REPLACED BY ADDITIONAL IRANIAN EXPORTS TO USSR. ESFANDIARY BELIEVES THIS AGREEMENT IS CERTAIN TO BE CONCLUDED SOON.
BYRNE

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